Brad Fosbenner

History

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The Kent State Tragedy

All of America is up in arms about the Vietnam War; many are for the removal of troops out of Vietnam. Richard Nixon sending troops into Cambodia when many are already pulled out of Vietnam has angered American’s. The students of Kent State are extremely angered by this. Since they do not agree with troops in Cambodia they protested against it.

On May 1, 1970 at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio students organized together for a protest against President Richard Nixon sending troops into Cambodia. The next day of the protest the students burned down the R.O.T.C building. After the shocking action by the students the mayor of Kent called in the National Guard.

May 4, 1970, chaos broke loose. The National Guard has lost control of the protest. The National Guard, in an attempt to control the protest, began to throw canisters of tear gas into the middle of the protest. This resulted in the students scattering.

The protesting students ran they began to split up. One group came to the parking lot were they began to throw anything they could find, such as stones at the soldiers. The other group, who was hit with canisters of tear gas, threw the canisters back at the soldiers.

The soldiers retreated back to the top of the hill where they formed a single line and began to open fire on the Kent State protestors. Many soldiers riffles were pointed straight in the air but a few were pointed straight at the students. This lead to students scattering and four dead the names of these four were, Allison Krause, 19, Sandra Lee Scheuer, 20, Jeffrey Glenn Miller, 20, William K. Schroeder. 9 were also wounded.

The massacre has left the campus in destruction. Kent State has shut down, students in shock left have campus. The director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Edgar Hoover, was called by Governor of Ohio James Rhodes about an investigation of the shooting and no decision has been made. The president of Kent State, Robert White, has ordered the campus to be closed for an unknown period of time.

The pictures of the massacre have been going throughout the country and have angered people even more about the Vietnam War. The Kent State massacre has left the country in disgust. The massacre is the worst possible thing that could happen for the supporters of the Vietnam War and could possibly change the view on the war for American people in a huge way. It also could help the Anti-War movement gain more supporters because now people with in United States own boarders are now dead.

Works Cited

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